

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1360**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Steinberg**

February 21, 2003

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An act to add Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 71080) to Part 2 of Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, relating to environmental quality.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1360, as introduced, Steinberg. Environmental quality: environmental indicators.

This bill would require the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA), beginning on July 1, 2004, and to the extent that funding is available, to develop and maintain a system of environmental indicators to assist the agency in guiding program planning and to communicate information to the public about the state of the environment. The bill would require the agency to submit a report on those environmental indicators to the Governor and the Legislature on or before January 1, 2006, and by January 1 every two years thereafter.

The bill would require the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to be the lead agency for developing new environmental indicators, for modifying, deleting, and updating existing environmental indicators, and for developing and maintaining an environmental indicator database. The bill would require OEHHA to consult with other state agencies, as specified. The bill would also require OEHHA to lead an intraagency work group consisting of representatives from each board, department, and office within Cal/EPA. The OEHHA would be required to consult with that intraagency work group regarding various activities.

The bill would require the Secretary for Environmental Protection Agency to appoint an external advisory group that would be required to advise and develop recommendations for the secretary and the intraagency work group.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 71080) is added to Part 2 of Division 34 of the Public Resources Code, to read:

CHAPTER 4. ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION INDICATORS FOR CALIFORNIA

71080. (a) Beginning on July 1, 2004, to the extent that funding is available for this purpose, the California Environmental Protection Agency shall develop and maintain a system of environmental indicators. The agency shall use this system to assist in guiding program planning and to communicate information to the public about the state of the environment.

(b) The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) "Agency" means the California Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) "Environmental indicator" means a measure that presents scientific information on environmental conditions, releases of contaminants into the environment, or the effects of those releases.

(3) "Office" means the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

(c) The agency shall submit a report on the environmental indicators developed pursuant to this chapter to the Governor and the Legislature on or before January 1, 2006, and by January 1 every two years thereafter.

(d) The office shall be the lead agency for developing new environmental indicators, for modifying, deleting, and updating existing environmental indicators, and for developing and maintaining an environmental indicator database. The office shall lead an intraagency work group, consisting of representatives from each of the boards, departments, and offices within the

1 agency. The office shall consult with the intraagency work group  
2 in developing and maintaining the environmental indicators,  
3 program planning, policy formulation, and other decisionmaking  
4 processes, and in drafting the report required under subdivision  
5 (c).

6 (e) In developing and maintaining the environmental  
7 indicators, the office shall consult with the Resources Agency, the  
8 Department of Health Services, and other state agencies as  
9 appropriate.

10 (f) The office may utilize information for indicators that is not  
11 collected by other boards and departments within the agency and  
12 may identify and establish new indicators.

13 (g) The Secretary for the agency shall appoint an external  
14 advisory group consisting of representatives from local  
15 government, academia, the regulated community,  
16 nongovernmental organizations, and other groups with an interest  
17 in environmental issues. The external advisory group shall  
18 perform the following functions:

19 (1) Develop recommendations for the secretary and the  
20 intraagency work group for incorporating the environmental  
21 indicators into program planning, policy formulation, and other  
22 decisionmaking processes.

23 (2) Advise the secretary and the intraagency work group on the  
24 expansion and maintenance of the environmental indicator  
25 system, including the development of new environmental  
26 indicators and the modification, deletion, and updating of existing  
27 environmental indicators.

28 (3) Act as external advisors and reviewers of the report  
29 required in subdivision (c).

